

Vehicle Fire Prevention

Guidelines for fire safety when using a vehicle.

Vehicle fires are among the leading fire problems. One of every five fires involves motor vehicles and 1 of every eight deaths results from motor vehicle fires.

1

Prevent Vehicle Fires—

- ☐ Be sure your car's engine and electrical system is in good repair. Over 60 percent of all vehicle fires originate in the engine area.
- ☐ Be careful with smoking materials, the second leading area of origin for vehicle fires is in the passenger area.

2

Refuel Safely – Gasoline fumes are highly flammable.

- ☐ Never smoke or light matches or lighters while refueling, and always turn off your engine.
- ☐ To prevent gasoline spills, it is safer to hold the pump handle then to use a pump handle latch-open device.
- ☐ When the nozzle automatically shuts off, do not top off your tank.
- ☐ Never allow children under driving age to refuel a vehicle.
- ☐ **Static electricity --** Do not re-enter your vehicle during refueling. If you cannot avoid re-entering your vehicle, discharge any static build-up **BEFORE** reaching for the nozzle by touching something metal with a bare hand -- such as the vehicle door -- away from the nozzle. In the event that fire occurs when refueling, leave the nozzle in the fill pipe and back away from the vehicle. Notify the station attendant immediately.
- ☐ **Ungrounded gasoline containers on truck bed liners -** Gasoline containers being filled on truck bed liners create an ungrounded condition. This can cause fires as the flow of gasoline through the pump nozzle produces static electricity. To avoid static buildup:
 - Place approved container on the ground.
 - Do not fill container in the vehicle or truck bed.
 - Keep the nozzle in contact with the can while fuelling.
 - Do not use a pump handle latch-open device to fill a portable container.

3

Protect yourself from danger –

- ☐ In case of a vehicle fire, move a safe distance from the vehicle and call 911. If you believe there is a fire under the hood or in the trunk, do not open them (this may feed oxygen to the fire, which could cause it to flare). If you keep a fire extinguisher in your car, know how and when to use it. Never compromise your safety.
- ☐ Protect your vehicle from theft – Many vehicle fires are the consequence of a theft/arson. Never leave your keys in your vehicle. Keep your vehicle locked.
- ☐ If you experience a vehicle fire, attach a copy of the fire department report to your insurance claim.